

OPENING REMARKS

BARBARA P. HANSEN

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Welcome. On behalf of the Trustees, the staff, members, and volunteers, I welcome you to the Marie Selby Botanical Gardens, a subtropical oasis in the heart of downtown Sarasota, Florida. With orchidists from six continents participating in this week's meeting, I want to express our gratitude for your support and for your commitment to orchid conservation. Your continuing efforts to protect orchid species, wherever they occur, offer promise to all who are interested in plant conservation.

We hope that the important exchange of information that will occur during the Second International Orchid Conservation Congress will benefit each of you. Certainly, Selby Gardens will continue to contribute to these interests by publishing its discoveries in *Selbyana*, its scientific publication focused on epiphyte research.

Thank you again for coming to Marie Selby Botanical Gardens this week. Enjoy your visit to this special corner of the globe and relish the opportunity to share your knowledge with your colleagues from around the world.

I look forward to meeting each of you.

DONA M. MORGAN

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Ladies and gentlemen, good morning and welcome to the Second International Orchid Conservation Congress. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, the staff, and volunteers, and the 9000 members of the Marie Selby Botanical Gardens, I wish to extend a warm welcome to all delegates to this significant scientific gathering.

This international congress, including representatives from nearly 2 dozen countries, will cover a variety of issues crucial for the conservation of orchids: species counts, ecological threats, seed-banking, international trade, propagation and reintroduction, symbiosis, scientific display, genetic sequencing, scientific partnerships, and more. Numerous field trips, posters, and workshops will complement the conference presentations and will demonstrate the full scope of orchid conservation worldwide. We are grateful for your support of Selby Gardens and for your efforts on behalf of this flagship group of plants.

The IOCC II is a landmark opportunity to forge international partnerships for conservation action. The outcomes of our weeklong gathering will help to ensure the protection and propagation of orchids and their habitats across the globe.

While you are here, please take time to enjoy the Selby Gardens orchid collections, live and preserved, and the display gardens. All of our staff and volunteers are eager to accommodate your stay and your work. Let us know how we can help to make this gathering an exemplary model of collaboration for plant conservation. And don't forget about "Reggae on the Bay" on Wednesday evening—a fun-filled evening for all our visitors, with tropical tunes, great food, and general public enjoyment.

My very best wishes for a successful congress. Thank you.